

Case 2440

LIPARIDAE Gill, [30 September] 1861 (Osteichthyes, Scorpaeniformes): proposed confirmation of spelling

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to confirm the almost universal spelling of the fish family name LIPARIDAE although it is grammatically incorrect. The correct spelling, LIPARIDIDAE, has only been used about sixteen times up to and including 1983, whereas LIPARIDAE has been used some 900 times.

1. Günther ([14 December], 1861, p. 158) proposed the name LIPARIDINA for a subdivision of the DISCOBOLIDAE. The type genus is *Liparis* Scopoli, 1777 (p. 453; type species by absolute tautonymy *Cyclopterus liparis* Linnaeus, 1766, p. 414). The date of Günther's work is taken from the minutes of a meeting of the Trustees of the British Museum on 14 December 1861, authorising the release of the book for sale. This has been independently confirmed from the records of the printer, Richard Taylor (British Museum, pers. comm.). Gill (1861, p. 47) proposed the name LIPARIDAE. The date of Gill's publication can be fixed as prior to 30 September 1861, the date of notice of receipt of his book from the Boston Natural History Society (pers. comm. E. Böhlke, Academy of Sciences, Philadelphia, June 1987). Authorship of the name LIPARIDAE must therefore be attributed to Gill.

2. Steyskal (1980, p. 170) showed that the spelling LIPARIDAE was grammatically incorrect and should be replaced by the correct form LIPARIDIDAE. However, in the course of making a bibliography of approximately 900 references to the family up to and including 1983, I have found only 16 works which use the ending -IDIDAE. The *Zoological Record* continues to use the ending -IDAE.

3. The generic name *Liparis* has been used three times in zoology: by Scopoli (1777; Osteichthyes); by Bosc (1802; Crustacea) and by Ochsenheimer (1810; Lepidoptera). The last has also been used to form family-group names with the stems LIPAR- and LIPARID-, but these are invalid since *Liparis* Ochsenheimer (1810, p. 186) is a junior homonym. There are two additional generic names which have the stem Lipar- with respect to forming family group names. The first is *Lipara* Meigen (1830, p. 1) (Diptera), the second is *Liparus* Olivier (1807, p. 284) (Coleoptera), which has two junior homonyms. There is only one family group name based on *Lipara* Meigen: LIPARINI Nartshuk (1987, p. 224), and two based on *Liparus* Olivier: LIPARINI Marshall, 1932 (p. 346), and the sub-tribe 'Liparides' Latreille, 1829 (p. 70 in a footnote), which has not been used.

4. The precise derivation of the fish name remains obscure but there are several candidates. Most likely is from the Greek word *liparos* meaning fatty (cf. 'lipid'), sleek or shiny. It seems certain that although Scopoli was the author of the generic name, *Liparis* was in wide use by non-binominal authors. Although Mayr (1972, p. 99)

suggested that family-group names proposed before 1948 and incorrectly formed should not be corrected if they had come into almost universal use, this provision was never incorporated into the Code and therefore the familiar name LIPARIDAE should be replaced by the relatively unused LIPARIDIDAE. It is clearly in the interests of stability that this does not happen and existing usage be maintained.

5. To maintain existing usage the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to rule that for the purposes of Article 29 the stem of the generic name *Liparis* Scopoli, 1777, is LIPAR-;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Liparis* Scopoli, 1777 (gender: feminine) type species, by absolute tautonymy, *Cyclopterus liparis* Linnaeus, 1766;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *liparis* Linnaeus, 1766, as published in the binomen *Cyclopterus liparis* (specific name of the type species of *Liparis* Scopoli, 1777);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name LIPARIDAE Gill [30 September] 1861 (type genus *Liparis* Scopoli, 1777), spelling confirmed in (1) above.

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